

# AEDC

Arnold Engineering Development Center  
Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn. 37389

An Air Force Materiel Command Test Facility

*Test Before Flight*

[www.arnold.af.mil](http://www.arnold.af.mil)



## Camp Forrest

Camp Forrest, located near Tullahoma, Tenn., was one of the Army's largest training bases during World War II. It was an active Army post between 1941 and 1946.

The camp, named after Civil War Cavalry Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, was originally named Camp Peay. Camp Peay was named after the Tennessee Gov. Austin Peay and built east of Tullahoma as a National Guard Camp in 1926. Camp Peay covered 1,040 acres. Camp Forrest covered 85,000 acres located just beyond the old Camp Peay.

The camp was a training area for infantry, artillery, engineer and signal organizations. It also served as a hospital center and temporary encampment area for troops during maneuvers. Maj. Gen. George Patton brought his 2nd Armored "Hell on Wheels" Division from Fort Benning, Ga., for maneuvers.

William Northern Field, an air training base, was an addition used as a training site for crews of four-engined B-24 bombers of the Army Air Forces.



Photo # 72-1611

*Before it was Arnold Center, this was Camp Forrest during World War II.*

Incoming troops had the normal amenities such as service clubs, guest houses, library, post exchanges, post office, hospital, religious services, theaters, show-ers, Red Cross and Army Emergency Relief facilities. Recreation facilities include swimming, archery, tennis, a sports arena and a nine-hole golf course.

Camp Forrest officially became a prisoner of war camp May 12, 1942. The camp housed Italian and German POWs. Prisoners became laborers at Camp Forrest in the hospitals and on farms in the local community.

In 1945, the U.S. government implemented an Intellectual Diversion Program to enlighten Germans on the American way of life and increase their appreciation for our country. This program used educational and recreational media to change views of POWs, and the program was successful with many prisoners.

Tullahoma was greatly affected by the installation of Camp Forrest. Because of maneuvers and operations, civilians became accustomed to blocked roads, traffic jams, crowded stores, the absence of mail delivery and driving at night without lights. Soldiers camped out on lawns and fields; many crops and fences were destroyed.

In 1940 the population in Tullahoma was 4,500. By



Photo # 00-15608

*Camp Forrest became a prisoner of war camp May 12, 1942.*

the end of the war, the population had grown to 75,000. Many military people who moved in for construction and operation of the camp remained after the war.

In 1946, the war was over and Camp Forrest and Northern Field were declared surplus property. Buildings were sold at auction, torn down and carted away. Water and sewage systems and electrical systems were sold as salvage. All that remained were roads, brick chimneys and concrete foundations.

Soon after the close of the camp, the area was selected for the site of the Air Force's new Air Engineering Development Center. In 1951, the center was dedicated by President Truman and renamed the Arnold Engineering Development Center in honor of General of the Air Force Henry H. "Hap" Arnold. General Arnold was World War II Commander of the Army Air Corps and the only Air Force officer to hold 5-star rank.

Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) is the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world with more than 58 aerodynamic and propulsion wind tunnels, rocket and turbine engine test



Camp Forrest guard tower

Photo # 00-15609

cells, space environmental chambers, arc heaters, ballistic ranges and other specialized units. Twenty-seven of the center's test units have capabilities unmatched anywhere else in the United States; 14 are unmatched anywhere else in the world. Facilities can simulate flight conditions from sea level to altitudes above 300 miles and from subsonic velocities to those well over Mach 20.

#### Camp Forrest Units:

193rd Glider Infantry Regiment  
194th Glider Infantry Regiment  
513th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
17th Airborne Division Artillery  
680th Glider Field Artillery Battalion  
681st Glider Field Artillery Battalion  
466th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
155th Airborne Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion  
139th Airborne Engineer Battalion  
517th Airborne Signal Company  
HHC, 17th Airborne Division  
717th Airborne Ordnance Company  
411th Airborne Quartermaster Company  
17th Airborne MP Platoon  
17th Parachute Maintenance Company  
224th Airborne Medical Company

Army Service Forces Baker and Cook School  
Women's Air Corp Detachments  
48th Medical Depot Company  
415th Artillery Group  
1457th Service Command Unit of Army Service Forces  
71st Army Air Force Base Unit of the 104th Weather Group  
737th AAF Base Unit of the 107th Army Airways Communications System Squadron  
AT Battery, 1st Battalion, 191st Field Artillery  
HQ&HQ company, 183rd Tank Battalion  
Service Battery, 2nd Battalion, 181st Field Artillery Btry  
Company A, 183rd Tank Battalion  
Company B, 183rd Tank Battalion  
Company C, 183rd Tank Battalion  
HQ Battery, 2nd Bn., 191st Field Artillery  
Battery H, 2nd Bn., 191st Field Artillery

HQ Battery, 3rd Bn., 191st Field Artillery  
HQ 765th Tank Battalion  
HQ.HQ. Company 765th Tank Battalion  
Company A, 765th Tank Battalion  
Company B, 765th Tank Battalion  
Company C, 765th Tank Battalion  
Recon Co, 775th Tank Battalion  
HQ Btry, 959th Field Artillery Battalion  
Service Btry, 959th FA Battalion  
Battery A, 959th Field Artillery Battalion  
Battery B, 959th Field Artillery Battalion  
Battery C, 959th Field Artillery Battalion  
107th Cav. Reg., Horse Mech (Ohio)  
33rd Inf. Div. (III. Nat'l Guard)  
2nd Ranger Battalion  
5th Ranger Battalion



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Release # 2007-090

